United Nations S/2008/198

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 March 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 25 March 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In response to certain baseless allegations made by the representative of the Israeli regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran at today's meeting of the Security Council, I wish to bring to your attention the position of my delegation on the said unfounded allegations, as contained in the annex to this letter.

Since our request to exercise our legitimate right to respond to those groundless allegations at the Council's meeting was denied, I should be grateful if you could bring the content of this letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council and to circulate them as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammad **Khazaee**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-28329 (E) 270308

Annex to the letter dated 25 March 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Response by the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the baseless allegations made by the representative of the Israeli regime

Before the Security Council meeting on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

25 March 2008

The representative of the Israeli regime made certain baseless allegations and absurd distortions against my country at today's meeting of the Council. Therefore, I wish to state the following:

We categorically reject the allegations made by the representative of the Israeli regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran in his statement before the Security Council today. Resorting to slanders, distortions and unfounded allegations has become a routine and indeed tired practice for the Zionist regime by which the said regime intends to distract the international community's attention from the appalling crimes that it has committed, and continues to commit, against the Palestinian people.

Iran has repeatedly emphasized that its support for the Palestinian people is of a humanitarian and moral nature. The legitimate cause of Palestine and the plight of the Palestinian people are high on the agenda of the international community as was demonstrated in the discussions of the Council today, including in the statements made by the majority of Council members as well as by the Chairmen of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Non-Aligned Movement.

The international community is undoubtedly aware of this Israeli ploy, and therefore, no amount of slander and smokescreen will be able to cover up this obvious fact that the main reason for the instability and insecurity in the region with serious ramifications for the whole world is the State terrorism, occupation and aggression perpetrated by this brutal regime. As reported to the Council today by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, throughout the period under review, the situation in the Palestinian territories has unfortunately deteriorated and the Israeli war machine has continued to be relentlessly at work, shattering the lives and livelihoods of the innocent Palestinian people. In gross violation of international law, international humanitarian law and the most basic human rights principles, the Zionist regime has continued and intensified its crimes against the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip, especially through massacring the people, destroying civilian infrastructures, expansion of illegal settlements, construction of the apartheid separation Wall and imposing a humanitarian crisis on a whole population that has been actually imprisoned in the Gaza Strip for years.

Only in the past few weeks, as a result of brutal Israeli attacks against the occupied Palestinian territories and the innocent Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, more than 140 people have been killed and hundreds have been wounded — many of them women and children. The illegal closures, the inhumane restrictions and the

crippling siege imposed by the Israeli regime against Palestinians, and the ensuing humanitarian crisis, have brought about a disastrous situation on the ground that in many aspects is unprecedented in recent memory. The Israeli regime has even blocked the free movement of humanitarian, medical and basic goods for the innocent Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip. Indeed, these atrocities which seem to be aimed at the annihilation of an entire population are clear examples of collective punishment and amount to genocide and ethnic cleansing.

The Israeli regime has continued its expansionist and illegal policies and practices with regard to Lebanon and in the occupied Syrian Golan too. As indicated in the Secretary-General's reports, the air and land violation of Lebanon by the Israeli regime has continued unabated in clear violation of resolution 1701 (2006). Still, innocent Lebanese are losing their lives because of the unexploded cluster munitions used by the Israeli regime in its aggression against Lebanon in 2006, and the landmines that its brutal army had planted during its occupation of south Lebanon continue to take human tolls.

In our view, a lasting peace in Palestine and the Middle East will only be possible through justice, full restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people, an end to discrimination, an end to occupation of Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese territories, the return of all Palestinian refugees, and a democratic mechanism through which all inhabitants of Palestine as well as Palestinians driven out of their homeland would have the possibility to determine their future in a democratic and peaceful fashion.